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The Playground

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The Playground

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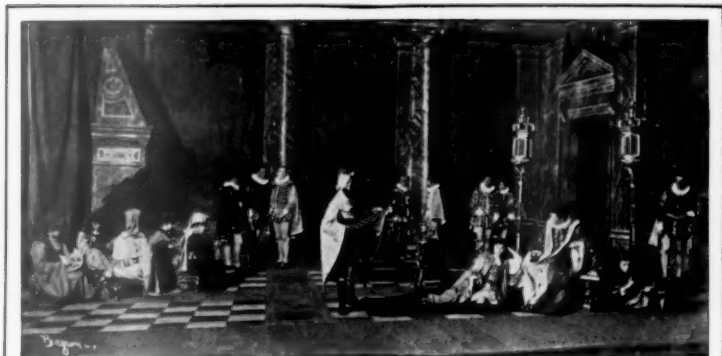
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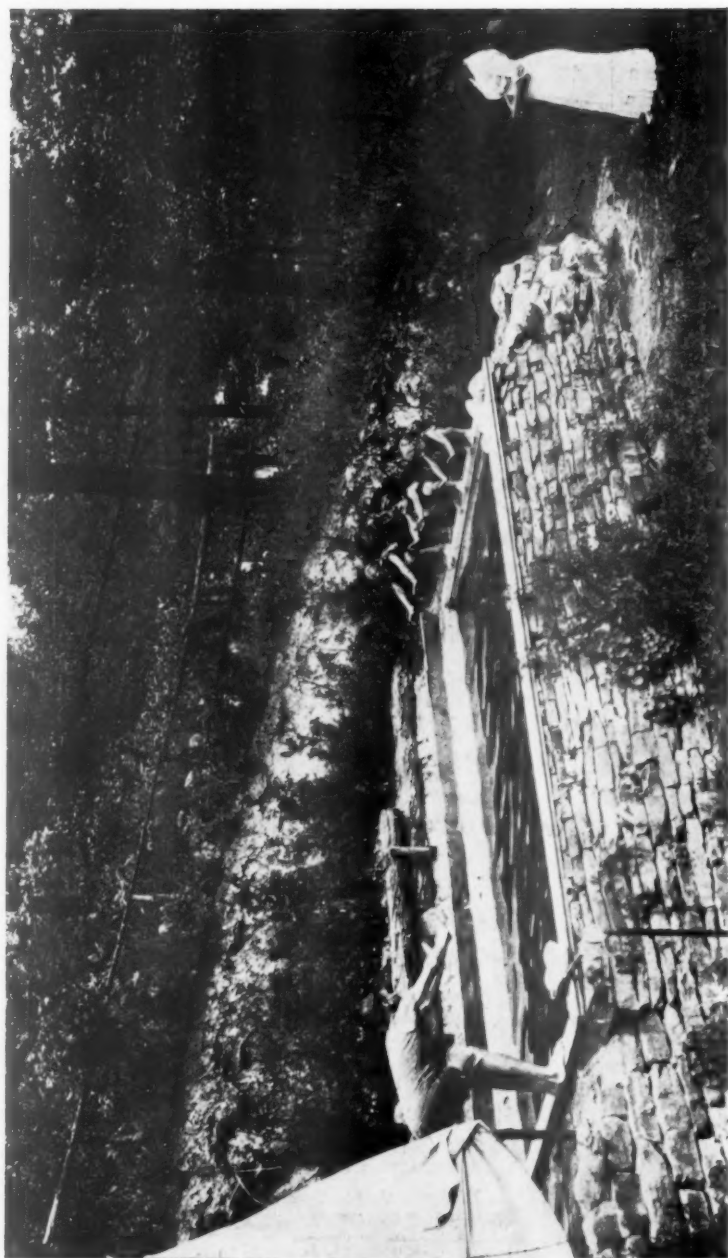
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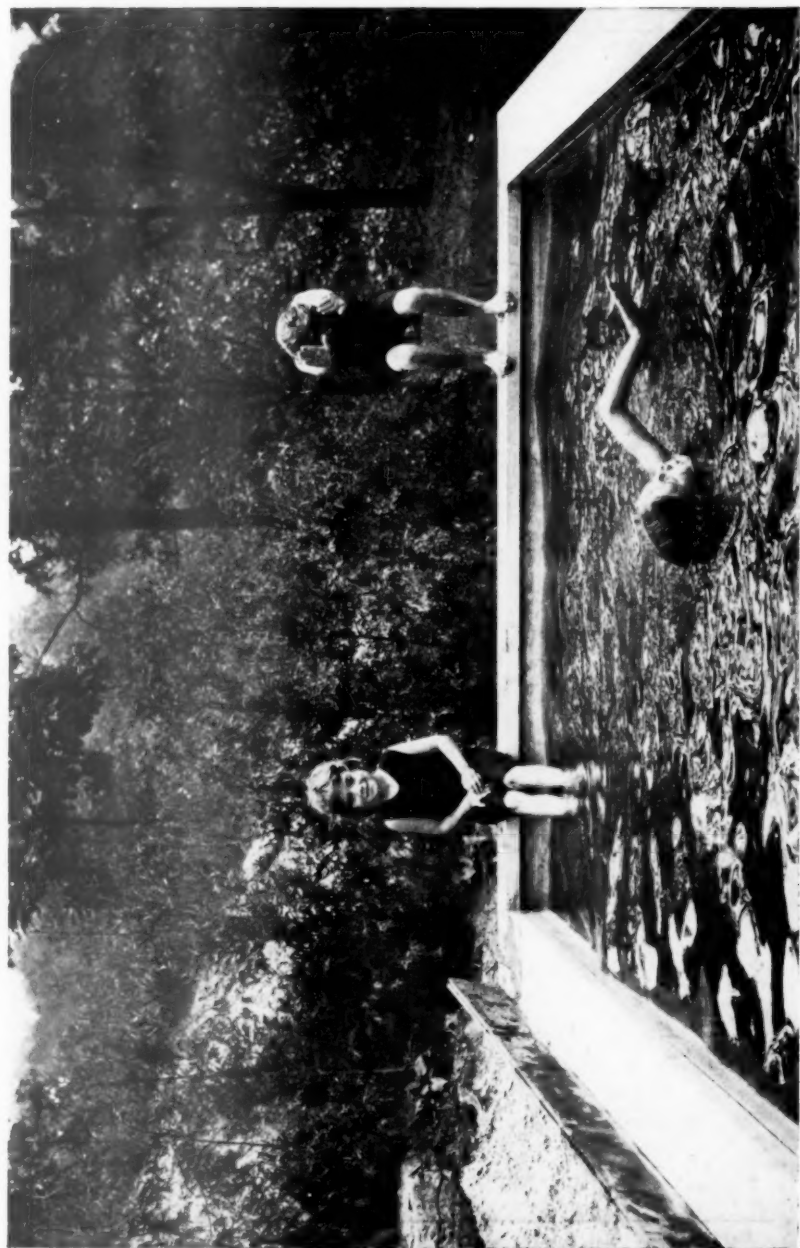


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Pittsburgh, Pa.

AT THE PLAY CENTERS

The playground in Middletown, Connecticut, is very fortunately located. On a level spot by the side of a stream it lies between two wooded hills near the center of the city. The day will soon come when more playgrounds may be made beautiful and attractive. At one end of the playground stands a magnificent old tree which spreads its branches shading ample ground for a circle of one hundred children. Even in the early afternoon, when the sun is hottest, in the shade of this tree the children are well protected and find great pleasure in the story hour. In Middletown as in several other cities the children themselves have repeated the tales they have heard and the boys have been even known to give up their baseball and listen to the stories of the leader.

If the present development of storytelling upon the playground continues, it may be that later in our own country storytelling will come to have something of the same relation to the recreational life of the people that it has in Ireland at the present time. It may become a force in shaping our national ideals equal to that of storytelling in the days of Homer.

Storytelling in the Philadelphia playgrounds is intended to minister to the child's spiritual needs—to familiarize the child with a few stories well told and repeated again and again that permanent moral and intellectual benefit may be gained. The director feels that many stories will not only lead to a confusion of ideas but to fickleness of taste and habits of inconstancy. Children are quick to seize the moral. She says that in such a story as that of Ludwig and Marleen the children always show their disapproval of Marleen's dissatisfaction and greed. Some children in telling the story of the Little Red Hen always added, "And the others all got left because they would not help."

Well organized dramatic work has been conducted on the Chicago playgrounds by the Junior Department of the Drama League of America.

A form of dramatic art, not so high as that of the drama league and yet with infinite possibilities for a good time, was tried in one Chicago playground, which had a playground circus with elephants and monkeys that occasionally revealed the fact that they were small boys, a circus with girl zouaves, and thrilling

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spectacles, with five hundred participants and twenty-five thousand spectators at the two performances.

A committee of the Pensacola School Improvement League Association conducted a graded course in picture study so that the children might become familiar with at least ten of the world's masterpieces. One hundred and thirty six dollars and fifty cents worth of pictures were purchased by the children as a result of this interest.

Tramping

Lest anyone should think municipal walks interesting only to a limited class of city inhabitants, the municipal athletic association of Boston printed a long list of the type of people making up the 826 walkers in three months. Among these were members of a business women's association, lawyers, doctors, head stenographers, newspaper writers, business and professional men, workingmen, teamsters, carpenters, a man of sixty-eight and two women over seventy, Back Bay women, including one who met the party the first time in her automobile and the next week joined it and brought friends, teachers with groups of pupils, women who came once in hobble skirts and afterwards in walking costume.

New York has a section of the Appalachian Mountain Club which conducts a walk each week, sometimes all day, sometimes part of the day. The party usually takes the train to an interesting point, from which the leader conducts the walk, arranging to get back in good time for the train back to the city. The superintendent of the Los Angeles public schools has suggested including "hikes" in the regular school program.

Playground Tours

An interesting phase of the work of the playgrounds of Brookline, Massachusetts, is the occasional tour under the direction of the supervisors of play. On one of these tours about 100 children visited the Charlestown Navy Yard, went aboard the Illinois and the Old Constitution, where they had luncheon, and stopped at Bunker Hill on the way home.

One summer Portsmouth, N. H. had a Sunset Baseball League composed of eight uniformed teams. The games started at 6.15 and were played on five evenings each week, drawing an average crowd of fifteen hundred people. Bleachers were provided with a capacity of seating one thousand people. The evening

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use of playgrounds is developing rapidly throughout the country.

In Pasadena two afternoons a week one hundred and fifty mothers took gymnastic exercises and folk dances with their children, and a large number of fathers and mothers are on the playgrounds in the evening. The campus, athletic fields and a dormitory of Mt. Holyoke College have been used during the summer as a vacation house for poor girls. At one Rochester playground the children prepared a Christmas tree for the birds, decking it with pieces of suet and bread, with strings of cranberries, to all of which they insisted on adding green tops of celery. Then the tree was hoisted to the roof of the playhouse. In a Youngstown, Ohio, playground which was fenced and protected at night, and where there was a "republic," a miniature zoo was established—white rabbits, rats and two bantam chickens, with the children for caretakers. Others loved to watch the animals and play with them.

Indianapolis made a toboggan slide out of an old shoot-the-chutes and thousands of men and women of this level city enjoyed the new experience through the eight or ten weeks the toboggan slide could be used. Two dozen Norwegian skis were also used on the playgrounds.

Athletic contests of schools for the blind are held annually by thirteen of these schools, each upon its own field. The events include the standing broad and high jumps, fifty yard dash, shot put, sack race, three-legged race and running broad jump.

Motion Pictures More and more the motion picture is being used for education and for recreation. In Dallas, St. Louis, Newark, Cleveland, New York, motion pictures have been used in connection with the playgrounds. Toledo, Ohio, combines education and recreation by showing the proper care of the teeth. Between 4000 and 5000 children viewed motion pictures on Prince Street Playground, Newark, N. J. while the street and every window in the neighborhood was crowded. The films were provided by arrangement with one of the theatres. In several cities, the motion pictures shown upon the playgrounds brought together about five thousand men, women and children from the neighborhood. There has been an opportunity for whole families to go together.

A Fox Hunt Rochester has an annual fox-hunt, in which thirty-six dogs participated this year. The fox is led over the ground and is safely in his box before the dogs

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are started. Nevertheless, a large crowd of spectators enjoy following the dogs and are enthusiastic over the event. Following this, one year a band of Tonawanda Indians engaged in snow snake games, consisting of throwing a long slender lead-tipped hickory stick over the snow. Indians have thrown these snow snakes 2,600 feet. Other events in the Rochester parks are the ice carnival, with its hockey game, races, and bonfire, the kite flying contest, the water carnival and miniature yacht races.

An Egg Hunt

Easter Monday is a big day for the children of Portland, Oregon, for on that day takes place the great Easter egg hunt,—in six parks simultaneously. A white bunny was the prize for the one who found the greatest number of eggs. Over five thousand children have "hunted" in one park and after the hunt there have been games and songs for all.

Festivals upon the playground are becoming more and more real play days. In one city out of four thousand people gathered together for the play day—one thousand really played.

Gardens

The relation of the love of beauty and an intimate touch with nature to recreation which shall re-create has led many cities to emphasize the development of home and school gardens. The University of Utah has conducted a ten-acre garden plot. Two acres were reserved for dry farming; the other eight bore an almost unbelievable number of trees, bushes and vegetables. In connection there were three hundred and ten home gardens and one hundred and twenty children raising poultry at home. A close and accurate account was kept of every cent of income, for everything is sold for market price. The seventh grade kept the accounts and had a bank account; the eighth grade had charge of civic affairs and the larger business interests.

The Oregon State Agricultural College conducted competitions with the aim of checking a tendency in the State towards over-specialization in one product. The work of Dayton and Cleveland, in gardens, is well known. In Columbus, Ohio, also, vacant lots are being utilized as gardens for both children and adults. West Park No. 3, Chicago, had seventy gardens in which both flowers and vegetables were grown. Racine County, Wisconsin, has a Home Gardening Association which sells seeds at one cent a package. At fairs held in the fall the results of the planting are exhibited.

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The public school children of Portland, Oregon, were organized into agricultural clubs and with the assistance of an advisory committee of business men suitable ground was secured, plowed and sowed and a contest for the best products inaugurated. A director gave his full time to the work, assisted by school teachers, principals and other volunteers.

The People's Institute of Northampton, Mass., conducts an annual Carnegie Flower Garden Prize Competition, with twenty-one prizes. Only gardens about the dwelling of the competitor upon which no hired help is employed are eligible in the main competition, although a separate first and second prize are awarded for gardens cared for by employees. Any number up to seven adjoining or opposite gardens may be awarded a club prize. Rating is given according to the place on which the garden is laid out, the harmony of form and colors, the general up-keep. One year there were 1607 competitors.

New York University gave a series of four "simple practical garden talks and demonstrations," two out-of-doors in the garden, two illustrated in the class room, by Henry Griscom Parsons. The class planted radishes in the first lesson and gathered them in the fourth.

The school garden movement is not merely an aesthetic delight but an actual living education. Schenectady has reported the raising of plants and vegetables not ordinarily grown in the locality as an object lesson and the awarding of prizes for the greatest improvement of an unimproved lot. Worcester, Mass., reported an individual gift of \$500.00 for prizes in school gardening, cooking, sewing and manual training. Dallas, Texas, gave a prize for the best plants grown in tin cans at home. Pittsburg reported a temporary greenhouse for winter work. Boys' gardens in an undesirable suburb of Dayton changed the character of the district.

The San Francisco Examiner offered prizes amounting to \$6,120 to children and adult citizens for gardens, window boxes, vines on houses, and block embellishments. The fundamental purpose of the competition was to inspire a permanent improvement, and not merely a spasmodic effort in the way of beautifying the city, to the end that in 1915, when the gates of the Panama-Pacific Exposition are opened, the city of the Golden Gate may show that it knows how to use the rich gifts of Nature.

AT THE PLAY CENTERS

Playgrounds and the Beautiful

Five hundred school children of San Francisco, their hands filled with flowers, marched to the site of the new People's Center, then a gray, black ruin, and pledged their aid to the City Beautiful Movement. It was a wonderfully impressive sight. Not a grown person present who did not turn with heartier enthusiasm to labor for the city, because of the promise of these citizens of the future.

Advertising

A number of cities are finding it helpful to publish an account of the recreation facilities of the city.

The Municipal Athletic Association of Boston has published a weekly recreation bulletin announcing walks and hikes, athletic meets and tests, giving complete list of recreational opportunities maintained by the city of Boston for the benefit of its residents with the schedule of hours. It has also published a bulletin of the places where there is skating. Seattle, Washington, has printed and distributes through the libraries, hotels and schools an illustrated pamphlet, describing the parks, their attractions, and ways of reaching them. Lancaster, Pa. has issued a weekly newspaper known as "Playground News." Two of the school playgrounds in New York City and one of the park playgrounds in Chicago have published magazines.

Music and Drama

The protection that music gives from the deadening influence of everyday work in a great commercial city, is the aim of the Music School Settlement founded by Mr. David Mannes in New York City. It is not its purpose to produce professional musicians, nor even to give opportunity for mere egotistical self-expression but to develop the finer instincts, to bring this cultural influence into the home of the poor, "that every house may make its own music." Eighteen schools patterned on this first one have been established in different cities and in all there is a long waiting list. Mr. Mannes believes that the public schools must come to recognize the great influence of music and other arts and throw open the buildings as centers of interest for all those who want to know more about the things that make life beautiful.

One phase of this work is the new Music School Settlement work for negroes, growing out of Mr. Mannes' peculiarly personal relation to the race. The aim is threefold: "the educational appeal through a racial talent; the founding of a social center with healthy

EVENING RECREATION CENTERS

moral environment and instructive recreation; the preservation, encouragement and development of the music of the negro, one of the most characteristic in this country."

Houston, Texas, has utilized a log auditorium seating eight thousand for concerts combined with lectures or with motion pictures. Haven, Kansas, gives moving picture shows at a nominal cost until a surplus accumulates, when the entertainments are given free. Concordia, Kansas, has a municipal theatre, a memorial site. In the municipal theatre at Northampton, Massachusetts, the citizens have been asked to indicate their choice of plays. A splendid stock company was organized. A Philharmonic Orchestra was organized in San Francisco under the auspices of the Recreation League, to give monthly concerts at the nominal admission of twenty-five cents. This was the first orchestra of the kind on the Coast and has proved a remarkable success. The Rochester Park Board has its own municipal band. One of the great events among the musical occasions at the park is the singing by a children's chorus, made up of 1500 public school children, accompanied by the municipal band. Some nights during the summer when 20,000 people have been together at a municipal concert all have joined in popular songs.

A barrel organ which plays ten tunes for folk dancing and games has been tried in New York. A pony is often attached to it and driven from one playground to another. The organ cost \$180.00. In many cities victrolas or grafonolas are used upon the playgrounds.

EVENING RECREATION CENTERS

The use of school buildings as recreation centers shows steady development. In Birmingham thirty citizens' associations have met in the schoolhouses. It is reported that nearly all of the schoolhouses built in Oklahoma recently have an auditorium, a gymnasium and other facilities for recreation. Pastors of all denominations in Alameda, California, have taken turns in giving weekly lectures in the schoolhouses. Regular lectures have been given in the public schools of Oakland. In sixty-five communities in Wisconsin a public school building is used as a branch public library not only for school children but also for adults. Civic and

EVENING RECREATION CENTERS

literary organizations in two hundred and sixty-five communities in Wisconsin have received debating and discussion material from the University of Wisconsin.

The Macey Street Social Center and Evening School in Los Angeles combined classes in cooking, sloyd, dressmaking, with glee clubs, gymnasium work and dancing. One Italian club furnished its own teacher of the Italian language. The Board of Education provided one leader for every twenty attendants.

The recreation centers of New York City have held numerous moving picture exhibitions in addition to increasing the number of musical, literary, civic and other clubs, providing more opportunity for mixed dancing classes. Recommending moving picture shows to the Board of Education, Supt. Maxwell says:

"Wherever recreation centers have been established, they prove formidable rivals to the private dance halls, always dangerous and often disreputable, with which our city is too abundantly supplied. To suppress them and other resorts even more vicious for the young seems impossible. The only way to meet the evil is to provide counter attractions of irreproachable character. These may most easily be furnished in the school buildings."

"Moonlight Schools" was the name given the night schools for adults in Rowan Co., Ky. Forty-five schools were opened in two weeks, and the mountaineers flocked down so that the classes had from 10 to 58 members. A little newspaper of current events was printed, to save the embarrassment of the primer, and the pupils learned to read with astonishing speed. Moreover, the classes were marked by a good-natured rivalry and "the effect on the social life of the county was admirable. The uncommon school associations seemed to develop a spirit of good fellowship before unknown, welding whole communities in sympathy and real neighborliness."

In addition to opening up the schools as recreation centers, many cities have developed year-round work in other municipal buildings. The public recreation department of Columbus, Ohio, and Godman Guild have co-operated in making of the Guild House a municipal center. Cleveland has purchased an old hospital and its grounds for a recreation center. The old town hall of a suburb of Denver now incorporated in the city is used for a recreation center.

EQUIPMENT NOTES

The Public Bath as a Recreation Center

Once public baths were merely places where men and women might go to be washed clean. Now when a city provides a public bath it tries to make the bath a part of the recreation machinery of the city. "Wherever people come together, there is an opportunity for wholesome recreational life," and our cities will no longer let such opportunities be wasted. The baths become an incident. The gymnasium, the lecture hall, the boys' club, the swimming pool, are made a part of the recreation center together with the public bath. At the municipal baths the people are given an opportunity to be neighborly.

Scores of churches in all parts of the country report the opening of play centers, the use of which is not limited to the members of their own congregations.

How may a saloon building be remodelled so as to be used as a municipal recreation center has been a question not only for discussion but also for action in two cities. In one of these cities it is reported that the patrol wagon has visited the street only twice this year instead of many times a week as formerly.

An attempt is being made to let the recreation center become the real neighborhood center. Slowly but surely neighborhood memories and neighborhood ideals are beginning to gather round these community centers.

EQUIPMENT NOTES

A Massachusetts town has turned a commodious barn into a gymnasium with dressing room and a visitor's gallery and a game room and auditorium have emerged from the old carriage house. No community need hesitate to use the facilities at hand. The need is to start,—to start right and developments are sure to follow.

A fine old country homestead near Oakland, California, has been converted into a recreation center with rooms for club meetings and parties, gymnasium with complete equipment, including shower baths, refreshment rooms and tables on the porches where light refreshments can be served, and quarters for the resident director.

The grounds surrounding the refuse incinerator in Portland, Oregon, a tract of about five acres, have been prepared for a public

EQUIPMENT NOTES

park and a children's playground equipped. A large free public municipal bath house was constructed in Indianapolis, out of an old gas tank.

Many cities are repeating in a measure Mr. De Groot's experience in Chicago when a plumber told him he had put in nearly two hundred bath tubs in houses as a result of the free shower service. Cleveland and Hartford have special baths for babies. In Hartford 1050 little mothers gave baths to their charges at one center in one month. Winnipeg, Manitoba, has a public bath and swimming pool, erected at a cost of \$50,000 with a sterilizing plant in connection with which every costume and every towel is sterilized before it is used.

The boys and girls of a high school in California did their own excavating and contributed one hundred dollars for a swimming pool and the trustees completed payments. The water drawn from the pool is used for irrigation. In Indianapolis a commercial bathing house company was induced to give the city free use of its facilities five days in the week for ten weeks out of the summer.

In Denver, Colorado, all playground apparatus is made in the playground shops by the superintendent and four blacksmiths and mechanics.

Winter Activities

Chicago purchased 450 pairs of skates which were lent, free of charge, each day. Skating races and efficiency tests, consisting of five stunts on skates were held. Those who could perform the five stunts were presented with efficiency buttons. A 1000 foot toboggan slide maintained by the park board of Rochester has given pleasure to 3000 persons in a single day. Buffalo is one of the first cities to increase the use of the playgrounds by lighting them at night so that both adults and children may play until ten o'clock.

Parks

Mr. George A. Parker believes every park should be so lighted that it would be possible to see in general what is going on, although he does not believe that the park should be so brilliantly lighted as to make it a place to which young people who are in the stages of legitimate courtship cannot be free to go without the feeling that they are in the lime-light and open to the gaze of super-curious eyes.

Mr. Parker has experimented in making candy and selling it at a small price, the profits going to the park fund, and also in serving milk and small packages of crackers for one or two cents.

EQUIPMENT NOTES

Bowling in the Recreation Centers

An outdoor bowling alley at Ellsworth, Pennsylvania, was 60 feet long and 6 feet wide. Heavy timbers 8" x 4" were extended the entire length of the alley and were placed on either side. The farther end of the alley was closed by heavy 2" plank. Scantling 2" x 4" were driven into the ground about 18". These held the plank against which the balls rolled. A single plank 12 feet long, 12 inches wide, and 2 inches thick was placed in the ground on a level with the floor of the alley. The balls were started in their course down the alley upon this plank.

The floor of the alley was made of yellow clay, tamped in place while wet and return runway was made of two boards each 6" wide whose edges were nailed together forming a trough. This trough was nailed to the fence against which one side of the alley lay. The trough inclined from the farther end of the alley to the starting point in sufficient number of degrees to insure the return of the ball from the farther end of the alley to the starting point. The reason the heavy timber was used for the side of the alley was that it had been rejected and was of no use to anyone else. Probably lighter timber would answer the same purpose, if properly anchored and secured.

The bowling alleys at the Proctor Recreation Center in Peoria, Illinois, provide the most popular form of recreation in the whole inviting list. About 16,000 men and boys used the room in the first four months—150 to 175 each day. The billiard tables, in the same room, were nearly as popular. Smoking is allowed in this room only and the men have made it their rendezvous. Last year a "brothers' bowling tournament" was held in which only brothers could compete, with the result that "big brothers who had never before noticed the existence of younger members of the family trained them for the tourney."

Roof Playgrounds

New York City has done much in developing roof playgrounds, not only on schools and settlements but even on the roofs of big hotels, stores and apartment houses. Having seen the careful fencing and screening, the swings and slides and sandboxes just as in an earth playground, breathed the purer air and been warmed in the bright sun shut out from the street below, the observer acknowledges that surely here is a valuable addition to the city play spaces. Dr. J. Edwards Stubbert, of New York, writing in the Medical Review of Reviews,

EQUIPMENT NOTES

asserts that a new and strong generation, better able physically to cope with life would result from a law making mandatory a roof playground on every apartment house, where children might play in pure air and sunshine, away from the deteriorating physical and moral influences of the street.

A children's roof garden with a sand pile and supervised play on the roof of the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago and a nursery with toys and playthings on the new Monroe Building are due to the desire of two photographers of children who realize that at play the children are best and happiest. In some sections of New York one may count ten or twelve boys and girls at play on the ordinary unguarded roofs of the tenement houses.

Model Playgrounds A number of model playgrounds at State Fairs or other exhibits have aroused interest and emulation. Indiana, Washington and Wisconsin have had such playgrounds. A miniature model playground made by playground children in Hartford attracted attention at a Hartford Municipal exhibit. The model was three by eight feet, equipped with tiny apparatus from marbles to a giant stride and showed besides doll leaders and children at play.

Playground Surfacing Writing in *Park and Cemetery*, J. R. Richards, of Chicago, says:

For several years the playgrounds of Chicago's South Park system have been surfaced with a coating of about one-eighth of an inch of torpedo sand spread over heavy black loam. This kind of surfacing, however, has not been entirely satisfactory. The torpedo sand was soon ground into the loam beneath, destroying the binding qualities of the latter, and if not kept moist continually a covering of loose material an inch or so in depth, from which arose considerable dust, was soon spread over the playground. When the dust is laid through the use of water the condition of a playground surfaced in this way is not a sanitary one. If a light oil is used for the purpose the dust is laid very effectively, but the material on the surface still remains loose; the only practical method of overcoming this objectionable feature that has so far been found is to resurface the playground.

A material now being tested as a surfacing by the South Park Commissioners is granulated blast-furnace slag, which has been placed under the most used apparatus (swings, giant stride and merry-go-round) in a new and popular playground. This ma-

CLOSING DAY ON THE SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

terial is brittle to the pressure of the foot and not gritty like cinders, a fact attested by the presence of barefoot children in the grounds using the apparatus where the slag is being tried out without any apparent discomfort. It appears to pack well, but not too firmly under use, and does not seem to become scuffed up very readily. As the structure of slag is porous, it will absorb considerable moisture, which fact makes it possible to wet the surfacing thoroughly in the morning before opening and offer a surface neither muddy nor dusty. A disadvantage, however, is that this material cannot be flushed with a hose. The test has not been in progress long enough to enable me to form an opinion as to the exact value of slag as a permanent playground surfacing material.

After considerable experimenting, I believe that the nearest approach to the ideal practical playground surface that has so far come to my notice is obtained by the use of a mixture of ground cork and asphalt applied either in sheet or in brick form. This material fills all the requirements for such a surfacing. The South Park Commissioners have two tennis courts paved with sheet cork asphalt which have been in use for several years and have given great satisfaction; they can be used the year round. In one of the children's playgrounds the area under the giant stride has been paved this year in an experimental way with cork asphalt in brick form.

Efforts to provide tennis court surfacing that will permit the use of the courts at all seasons of the year have led to different experiments. The South Park Commissioners have had in use for several years two courts paved with cork asphalt, and more recently six courts have been paved with a mixture of quarter-inch crushed limestone (small enough to pass a half-inch mesh), torpedo sand and asphalt. All of these have met with great approval from the tennis playing public.

CLOSING DAY ON THE SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

Among the reports of summer closing days and festivals on the playgrounds which have come to the office of the Playground and Recreation Association, have been many so interesting that one cannot help wishing that it could be possible to make a tour of all the closing days throughout the country.

CLOSING DAY ON THE SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

In Ft. William, Ont., 1700 children marched to Arena Park where many of the national dances were given in costume. An award of honor was made to the school doing the best dancing, but as all did so well it was felt that there was but a small margin for the winning one. At the close of the awarding of the prizes the Mayor of the city and the chairman of the day made addresses. This was followed by kite flying contests, running races, dodge ball, volley ball. There was an exhibition of flowers and a raffia exhibition.

In Butte, Montana, a banquet was given in a large park by Senator Clark for the boys and girls who had been prize winners at various athletic events throughout the summer.

The first annual playground day of Birmingham, Alabama, held at the Alabama State Fair ground, consisted of folk dances, running races, ball games, closing with a May Pole dance.

Athol, Mass., had an annual fair with all that that includes. Special attention was given to the flower exhibit which was particularly large and beautiful this year.

Los Angeles celebrated its one hundred and thirty-third anniversary with a carnival on the grounds of the old Normal School building. The Normal School stands upon a hill. On the dome of the structure was a massive electric seal of the city, from which lines of electric lights radiated in all directions. Three bands in different parts of the grounds played throughout the celebration. On one part of the grounds fifty girls danced Indian dances and gave a Hiawatha pantomime. In another part a camping scene reproducing Los Angeles playground camp was given. There was a six reel picture of the St. Louis pageant, a police drill, a fireman's drill, and a great historical pageant, "Los Angeles, Queen of the Angels." Throughout the celebration boys and girls in groups roamed about the grounds singing.

In Harrisburg, Pa., the Sixth Annual Romper Day drew the people of the city together to witness ball games, kite contests, quoit tournaments, games, dances, an exhibit of hand work, the day closing with a band concert.

In Brockville, Ont., the folk dances and games were followed by a match baseball game which aroused great enthusiasm.

The Bennington County gala day was the Sunday School Field Day. It was such a success that it was planned to make it an annual affair.

CLOSING DAY ON THE SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

One of the efforts which reached most of the people of the community was the Rockford Exposition given "by young people for all people." The Exposition lasted four days and included all kinds of exhibits, dances, games, band concerts, musical competitions by young people, a great athletic meet, and a pageant by the schools of the city.

An interesting pageant was given in Scranton in which 1,000 children depicted the history of the city. The most striking tableau of all in this pageant was a contrast of alley and playground sports. A typical alley, with boys shooting craps, playing cards, smoking and fighting was shown. Into this came a banana peddler with a pushcart. The boys stole the bananas, tipped over the push cart and represented as realistically as possible the atmosphere of alley play. The next tableau showed the same alley. A playground in one corner showed girls sewing, big brothers playing volley ball and indulging in clean sports. During the tableau a boy carried a placard across the stage which said: "Will you have an alley or a playground?"

Weyburn, Sask., Brookline, Mass., Brooklyn and many other cities report successful play festivals, consisting of games, dances, and athletic contests.

Pittsfield, Mass., gave "A Pageant of the Massachusetts Colony" representing scenes from that Colonial history in which Massachusetts is so rich.

A Good Roads Day held at the Ohio State Fair, while not a playground pageant, gathered the people together and made them think about the present, past, and future conditions of their community, very much as playground pageants do. The first scene represented the mound builders who improved roads in Ohio for defensive purposes, or for the celebration of religious rites. The next represented a Red man following the dim path in the forest. A prairie schooner, an ox team, a stage coach, all made their contribution to roads in Ohio. The last part of the pageant was a plea for maintenance and repair, for uniform bridge construction, and general community sentiment for good roads.

SHOULD A CITY'S ECONOMY BEGIN WITH ITS CHILDREN?

TO THE TAXPAYERS OF DENVER

MRS. GUILFORD WOOD

Acting President Denver Playground Association, Denver, Colorado

The people most interested, who stand sponsor for the recreation movement in this city—that is, the Denver Playground Association—are willing, if a general reduction in municipal expenses is ordered, to accept their share of that reduction, but to be designated as a superficial and “ornamental” part of municipal life, and disposed of in a word by a few well-meaning, doubtless, but evidently not well-informed, citizens, this organization not only deeply resents but protests.

We have had an illustration recently in a most brilliant and cultured sociologist's having rushed into print with an article on the labor situation in Colorado—for which only last week he apologized to the country at large—for the reason that he had committed himself to an opinion without understanding his subject.

This we hope will be the attitude of “our taxpayers.” For example, how many of these gentlemen, how many of the people of Denver, know that 160,000 children played on the playgrounds during June, July and August of this year, a 22 per cent. gain over last year?

Would any one of these gentlemen consider himself an ornamental figurehead were he an instructor in charge of one of these grounds, and does he dare to outline what the result would be of the segregation of that number of children without some one in charge?

Again, these citizens have overlooked the fact that these instructors are young men and women admitted to this work only after a course of study in play and playgrounds and a most rigid examination. Therefore they cannot be designated “perhaps instructors.”

They are trained instructors, and it is considered a vocation so dignified and worthy of interesting the best talent, that today, in Columbia University and most of the leading universities of this country, a course in recreation is an integral part of the curriculum.

The increased number of instructors this year without an additional expense to the city has been possible because of the most

SHOULD A CITY'S ECONOMY BEGIN WITH CHILDREN

careful management and discrimination on the part of the supervisor as to the places where economy was to be practiced—and an increase has only been made when rendered necessary by the demand.

The people of Denver should never cease to be grateful that the Commissioner of Property has had such broad-minded vision of the value of this phase of our municipal life as to give it his hearty support.

Soon after the protest which was made by the city auditor early in the summer against what seemed to him an extravagant expenditure of the city's money in the playground movement, it was the pleasure of the writer to talk at length with Mr. Markey upon the scope and vision of the recreation movement, as recognized today by every progressive city and educator, and as a result to receive his assurance of most friendly co-operation—an assurance which has been verified in a most substantial way.

To both these city officials we are deeply grateful for helping to place this movement on a dignified basis as an integral part of our municipal life and one from which we do not believe its citizens will now see it removed.

All who believe that life, real life, is earnest and vital, that the ultimate hope of a successful and prosperous country rests entirely with the training of the youth of that country, will hesitate long before they put themselves on record as subscribing to the elimination of the playground instructors as suggested by these worthy gentlemen.

Any city that can afford to be a city can afford the necessary expenditure for the moral welfare of its people. That is not the point upon which to concentrate economy, and the elimination of the expenditure of a few thousand dollars for these instructors, amounting to but little more for an entire year than two days' expenses of our city administration, savors of straining at gnats.

Reduce expenses where necessary, gentlemen. Cut off the sprinkling and caretakers from miles of boulevards on Park Hill. Let the shrubs and trees die, if necessary, but let us see to it that the souls and lives of the little children of this city do not shrivel and wither for lack of care—with the aftermath of crime and anarchy.

We believe today in the recreation movement as the greatest constructive agency in this country in the upbuilding of citizen-

THE PROPER TEMPERATURE OF SWIMMING POOLS

ship and while in these days it takes unusual temerity to write of altruistic and uplift movements, when the heart of the world is sad and heavy with the weight of the sorrows of the great war—still we must be warned lest our attention be so absorbed that we neglect the primary and necessary duties of our every-day life. Many great writers are saying in effect today that “the work of the world for twenty years has got to be done in America,” that we must realize that the “United States must become a world server and the Stars and Stripes in some form a world flag.”

President Nicholas Butler, of Columbia University says: “The time may not be so very distant when to be the first moral power in the world will be a considerably greater distinction than to be the first military power, or even the second naval power, which latter goal is so constantly and subtly urged on the people of the United States.”

How are we to meet this test now, with our problems of mixed peoples and strong race prejudices—perhaps to be increased rather than lessened by this war; with the struggle between capital and labor, with its sharpening of class consciousness—perhaps in the end to affect the vital life of our nation?

How are we to fortify ourselves against these growing dangers, except through the youth of this country, in building up a splendid spirit of Americanism?

Let us think seriously of these things and hesitate long before we take any backward steps in the name of “economy” in the administration of our playgrounds.

THE PROPER TEMPERATURE OF SWIMMING POOLS

G. H. CORSAN

University of Toronto Athletic Association, Toronto, Canada

The normal temperature of the human body is 98.7° F. If a normal human being, that is, a person who is not attenuated, disgustingly fat nor suffering from high or low fever, were to move around moderately while unclothed in an air temperature of 48° F. he would not lose body heat to a dangerous degree. But if the temperature were raised 20 degrees and the subject were in water, such power has the water to abstract body heat that in a short

THE PROPER TEMPERATURE OF SWIMMING POOLS

time such a loss would take place as to leave the subject shivering with cold and too uncomfortable to consider the condition a matter of recreation or pleasure. The heart would be under such a strain to keep the body normal that relaxation would be out of the question. Now relaxation is one of the secrets of the art of swimming. The heart is a constant worker and is strengthened by rest and not by increased action. The increased action is for emergencies that may and will arise during the average life of all individuals, so why give it unnecessary work?

For outdoor pools which are exposed to the strong sunlight—as all pools should be—I find a temperature of from 78° F. to 80° F. comfortable for all day swimming and any change above or below to be uncomfortable one way or the other. For indoor sunless pools—as nearly all pools are but should not be—I find a temperature of from 80° F. to 85° F. right for long swims.

The most objectionable type of temperature I ever found in a natatorium was a water temperature of from 72° F. to 74° F. with the air 94° F. to 98° F. and very dry, coming off immense radiators. In this and other similar natatoriums I found the enthusiastic swimmers all bordering on tuberculosis, many barred from swimming by the doctor's orders. Then frequently I have found natatoriums that were ventilated from lanes having horse manure piles, or drawing the gas from the sewer traps. In such places many thousands of young men swam to the detriment of their health, and the swimming was blamed for it! I venture to say that every reader of this article can call to mind numerous cases of pinched-faced young men who in their very looks condemn either indoor swimming or the atmospheric condition or the water temperature.

What in the name of reason is there in the snake-like motions of swimming that can produce anything but the very best of health! No exercise in the gymnasium can begin to equal in hygienic value that of swimming. The crawl kick, for instance, not only will do more to deepen the lung action than anything that the brain of man can conceive, but will strengthen and properly place the pelvic organs of women better than any other means known. The reader may wonder on what authority I make this assertion. I have proved it by teaching many hundreds of sick women at the Battle Creek Sanitarium and other places during

IT PAYS TO PLAY

odd periods of the last nine summers when not engaged at the Y. M. C. A's.

The shoulder work of the crawl stroke as I have frequently demonstrated broadens and deepens the lungs as nothing else will, with the possible exception of the parallel bars, and does not tighten or bind the arms as does that apparatus. Let the physical director call to mind the many thousands of boys whom he has watched develop on the parallel bars, or, on the other hand, in the swimming pool on the crawl stroke.

You will note that I especially mention the crawl stroke. I do this as I consider the broad stroke on the breast a stupid old stroke having no hygienic value worth mentioning.

Then what is making so many sick swimmers when this work is so healthy for them? Nothing but bad atmosphere and wrong water temperature. The amount of sickness contracted by going home with wet hair is about one-tenth of one per cent. or the death rate from smallpox—thanks to hygiene.

In concluding this paper let me say most emphatically that window ventilation is absolutely superior to ventilation by the blower system. Air going through those long metal pipes has the taint of vitiation just as radiator air has. The air of natatoriums should be heated by the water of the pool; thus there is a healthy moisture about it that is sufficient. This does not mean that the shower baths should be in the same room with the swimming pool, as this makes too much moisture and a most decided lack of oxygen.

IT PAYS TO PLAY

TERENCE VINCENT

University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

Refused \$1000 a year because he could not coach athletics,—a principalship lost to a capable man—is one story. Another man, who had never taught, was hired at \$1000 a year to coach school athletics and teach agriculture.

Why?

"Practically all schools are asking for men who can coach athletics. Such information is of direct commercial value, aside from promoting the physical and mental well-being of students.

IT PAYS TO PLAY

I recommend that every man and woman in the School of Education take the maximum of physical education," said the Director of the Summer Session, in an interview with the writer recently. "There is a greater demand than ever before for teachers who can direct school children in games, athletics and gymnastics. Systematic exercises of this nature are replacing the once popular calisthenics." The Director is asked to recommend many teachers to school boards, and many teachers desire positions each year.

Investigations made by the writer last week show that in one class (in general physical education) at the University of Missouri there were enrolled one county superintendent, three school superintendents, two principals, one physical director, three students, and thirteen teachers (two teacher-coaches, eight city or town teachers, and three rural teachers); all will go out sooner or later and impart this information to others. The school people will deal with over 1800 boys and about 1700 girls during the coming year.

Why They Come

The county superintendent seeks information "in the matter of health gymnastics" in order to give "advice to teachers in the matter of heating, ventilation, management of playgrounds and group competition." Perplexing questions are threshed out in the class room and on the field in actual demonstration.

Girard, Ill., has about 300 boys and as many girls in the public schools. On account of the superintendent's play spirit and his skill in imparting it, many boys stay in school, and others are induced to enter school. He says, "The athletic spirit is strong now, and we have no trouble getting the pupils interested. I am taking the course here because I think it will do me a great deal of good personally, and because I enjoy it; but most of all, because I think school men should be intelligently interested in that which so vitally concerns the boys and girls."

Bringing Play into the School

A grade teacher from the Kansas City, Mo. schools reports: "Last year I supervised about forty boys and fifty girls on the playgrounds. I had also about 150 boys and 200 girls under my general supervision. With the new system in force, each class gets thirty minutes a day as a play period when each child is expected to stay with his own group and play what the majority play.

"In the spring the boys were interested in baseball and would

IT PAYS TO PLAY

devote every play period to that game. The long play periods did much for all the boys, with marked improvement in certain individuals. For instance, a tall wiry boy named Tom was the terror of all his teachers. He hated school and anything connected with school, and exerted an evil influence over the smaller boys. The new system brought him under the influence of several different teachers who trusted him to do the 'square thing.'

"In the plays and games on the playgrounds he retained his leadership, but under supervision he changed from a rough-and-tumble 'me first' leader to one who was an efficient director. At any time during his play periods, he could be seen in charge of groups of smaller boys refereeing basketball games, umpiring baseball games or starting the first graders in the game of *Cat and Mouse*. His improvement extended beyond the playground. In the auditorium, instead of sitting back and scoffing at the programs and making a disturbance, he became quiet and orderly.

"The girls had folk dancing mostly as a reward for good work and excellent behavior; the time was limited and the number of little girls unlimited, but nevertheless they enjoyed the dancing and derived much benefit from the exercise.

"Those who could not even skip to music at first, came to be among the best at the end of the year.

"Next year we are to have a new gymnasium where special attention will be paid to the child that cannot co-ordinate his brain and his muscles. Scheduled classes, it is hoped, will show the children and their parents the importance of physical education for little folks. Certain classes will have open air gymnasiums which will give some children needed exercise in the fresh air.

"Hygiene and personal care of the body will be taught in connection with the gymnasium activities.

"I enrolled in the classes in University of Missouri gymnasium so that I could learn what and how to teach, and also the *why*."

This comes from a teacher in the Irving School, which is adopting in great measure the methods used in the famous system of play in the schools of Gary, Indiana.

Play Affects Discipline

Overworked teachers willingly testify that "problems of discipline with Young America have been greatly diminished since our athletic department has been in operation." Various juvenile noises

AN ATTRACTIVE INVITATION

in imitation of birds and beasts, shifting feet, banging books and dropping pencils on the floor, and scattered papers and wads of gum are noticeably absent when the playgrounds are used extensively.

Incidentally, the community which is so fortunate as to have a competent physical director sooner or later awakens to the fact that there are not so many broken windows as in times gone by. The number of midnight pranks has been diminished since play was organized. Old wagons no longer adorn the front steps of prominent churches on sunny Sabbath mornings. Nor is the clapper of the old school bell found missing so that "curfew shall not ring" when school time comes. The sale of cigarettes has diminished greatly, and the back alley gangs are no more.

Why?

Can organized play pay?

Can it be that physical education has supplanted many of the childish pranks?

Teachers say yes. The cash of school boards calls the teachers who can direct the physical as well as the mental activities of children. Contracts are closed preferably with teachers especially equipped in this line. Parents are thankful to athletics because their children are often induced to remain in school, and still others have been brought into school because of bodily games.

Our people,—school workers, pupils, parents, and other citizens,—all enjoy helping the children to play. Even some of the old folks enjoy playing. Perhaps organized physical activities lead to more efficiently organized lives.

Does it pay to play?

We Missourians believe that it does.

Do you?

AN ATTRACTIVE INVITATION AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY

JOHN H. CHASE

Supervisor, Youngstown Playground Association, Youngstown, Ohio

When a man has definite work to do at high tension, the first part of him to get tired is his will power. Then a let-up comes and

AN ATTRACTIVE INVITATION

he is master of his own activities. He looks around to see what there is to do, and finds private gymnasiums, pool rooms, bowling alleys, saloons, theatres and libraries.

Gymnasiums are good, but the trouble is that they have set classes and rules, and one cannot drop into them for a good time at any hour. It takes too much calculation and preparation, and that part of one has become tired. Also many men find the membership dues high to pay at one time.

This leaves bowling, pool, theatres, libraries and saloons as the remaining recreative facilities. One goes to the theatre or moving picture show once or twice a week and that is done. Bowling and pool catch only those who are skilled and have been infected; or have a touch of the spendthrift or the sport.

The Attractive Invitation Accepted

So lastly stand out the libraries—and what they represent of study or browsing—and saloons. Most men like them both. Undoubtedly the former is the better, especially as exercising it gives a cumulative enjoyment. But the trouble is, library facilities are tucked off somewhere up in the dark part of town. It is a bother to get to them and they close early. The saloons are all around—like the movies—they say, “Hello there, come on in!” A fellow has used up all his planning and aggressive will power; and walking along in a good-natured, amiable way past one saloon after another, he naturally accepts their cheap and friendly invitation. There is not much to them, but they are good advertisers. The man at the tag end of the day is willing to let someone else do the pushing and inviting, also if he is tired he is more affected by big, broad, slap-dash fun, which he may see in a saloon.

If there were good little gymnasiums scattered spatter all over town, on the first floors, with bright lights, rough-and-tumble fellowship, shower baths, and a library attachment, they would catch most men instead of the saloon.

Why Not Make the Better Appeal Also Attractive

With friendly, sensible managers, why could not such centers be conducted on a paying basis, instead of a club membership basis? If I want to go to the gymnasium let me pay ten cents—a dime for a shower—or a seat in the library, and five cents for the balcony. The trick is to make them “boosters” and good advertisers, the way saloons and movies are. Putting them

HOW A PLAYGROUND DEVELOPED

on a business instead of a public or philanthropic basis might do this, although the method would have to be inventively thought out, of course.

Put little neighborhood center gymnasiums on the saloon sites when our towns are voted "dry," and put a red-blooded inventive, friendly manager in charge; and the town will never want to go "wet" at any subsequent election. Perhaps it is up to us recreation people to invent a "pay-as-you-enter" gymnasium, which can be self-supporting, and a new asset to our cities.

HOW A PLAYGROUND DEVELOPED

ELIZABETH FROOKS KESNER

Formerly Supervisor, Punxsutawney Playground Association.

Punxsutawney, Pa.

"Mother, I did not enjoy the ball game at all this afternoon " "Why not, son? You didn't lose the game?" "No, mother, but—." That's what started a playground in the town of Punxsutawney. Right there a seed was sown which later developed into a model playground. It appeared that every time boys wanted to play they had to pay five dollars for the only available place where they could play baseball and since the money had to be secured at the end of the game they usually felt that most of the fun had been taken out of the sport. The majority of the boys could not afford to pay for their "inalienable" right to play.

For three years this public-spirited mother worked hard and untiringly to gain the co-operation of other mothers. Two acres of land were purchased and a co-operative work was instituted. The grounds were cleared, weeds were pulled out, glass and rubbish were removed, and spots were filled which formerly had no drainage after rain or snow. Never before had the children of Punxsutawney had a real playground; in fact, they were not allowed even to play on the grass in front of the school buildings. Before choosing the apparatus the playground association which had been organized decided that the next step was to secure the services of a play leader who would develop the work from that point and build up a popular play space for boys and girls.

HOW A PLAYGROUND DEVELOPED

The Play Leader Appears

When I reached this picturesque town located in the hollow of a valley in the mining regions of Pennsylvania, I found many people who appeared to be opposed to the playground movement and who advanced such reasons as these: "I never had a playground when I was young and I'm all right." "It's a natural thing for children to play without a playground." "A playground in this community will make idlers out of our children," and other characteristic remarks. There was no need of answering. The people wanted to see for themselves. They wanted to be convinced. When in the course of a few weeks various activities were introduced on the playgrounds and met with the instant popularity of the children—the skeptics were answered. They saw the effect on both the mind and body of every boy and girl who attended the playgrounds and took part in the progress of the day. The effect was strikingly apparent everywhere. Even the children of wealthier parents learned to be fair in their play and not to expect more than an equal opportunity for all.

For the first two weeks there was no apparatus. About one hundred children came daily and while the boys played baseball and engaged in mild athletics, the girls went in for games and storytelling. For resting periods both groups had reading and reciting, and the girls took up needle work and sewed bean bags. Each group age had something different each day in industrial work; quiet activities on hot days and energetic ones on cool days. These groups became so pronounced that fourteen clubs were formed at the end of one month—each with its distinct set of administrative officers and with a certain defined purpose. As the work progressed the clubs developed into friendly competitive forces which helped to make a standard of emulation and efficiency.

The site chosen by the playground association was indeed a most favorable one with a creek of water flowing quietly along the edge of the grounds surmounted by a high hill which could be used for realistic pageants. The creek was occasionally used for wading and on hot days the boys and girls were refreshed by the cool waters and amused themselves by playing aquatic games.

Children's Own Activities Suggested Apparatus

Play leadership does not mean throwing ideas upon children but developing what the child actually begins. On a visit made the first afternoon before deciding the most necessary

HOW A PLAYGROUND DEVELOPED

apparatus to be secured, I saw several boys around the playground. One youngster was sitting on a log reading a torn Sunday funny page; two others were swimming in the creek and one child persisted in making mud pies and filling cans with the earth while several girls were attempting to hop some dancing steps. What these children were doing at once suggested the necessary apparatus. A sand-box was built in a few days; then a small-sized pavilion was erected. In the pavilion we held most of the activities. Here clubs met; girls learned folk-dancing and the boys also. On very hot afternoons the children read magazines or books while they listened to a gramophone.

Since it took two weeks for the ordered apparatus to arrive the activities developed as follows: games for all ages and groups, reading, storytelling, hikes and tramps through the woods to nearby points of interest, simple sewing and stitching and crocheting for girls and crude wood cutting for boys. Occasionally the games were varied and each child was requested to bring a string or a piece of cloth and beans or a rope or jacks or paper and scissors. With the string they were taught to make figures and forms; with the cloth and beans they made bean bags; with the rope they learned to jump to the song of different rhymes; with the jacks they played games and made pin-wheels and flowers with paper and scissors. The formation of clubs became popular. Each club had its own line of industrial work and original social program each month. Entertainments were planned by the boys and girls themselves, such as a Japanese lawn party, costumes, masques, penny social, mystery fete, excelsior get-together and many other similar events. Of course the boys' affairs were crude but they thoroughly enjoyed them as they had to plan and work the program themselves.

There was very little apparatus for the older girls, although they learned to crochet, debate and to take up popular folk-dances. Consequently, they planned various ways and means of raising money. Before the middle of July back-stops for ball games were installed and a basket ball outfit was purchased. All clubs partook in these activities at different hours and developed teams which resulted in the organization of a league. More money was raised and a volley ball outfit and two croquet sets were purchased. Toward the end of the first month the older girls and those who worked during the day formed themselves into an evening Camp

BOOK REVIEWS

Fire Club. Electric lights were installed and the pavilion was turned into an evening recreation center as well. This group of young women adopted a definite purpose in organizing and planned different activities for each evening.

Their Own Judges and Janitors

This playground had its own self-governing forces with specially appointed Boy Scout police, whose duties were to preserve law and order on the grounds. Any misdemeanor was referred to court which was held on Saturdays when a judge and jury composed of children tried each case. There was no care-taker, yet the children enforced their own laws and kept the grounds "cleaned-up" all the time.

The success of the work in play in the town of Punxsutawney inspired one of the richest women to make a bequest of \$20,000.00 for a building to be erected on lots next to the playgrounds. The institution is to be founded for Punxsutawney's children and is to be known as The John A. Weber Industrial and Domestic Science School. In addition an endowment of approximately \$100,000.00 is provided for the maintenance of the school. Furthermore, the public-spirited woman through whose efforts the playground became a reality, was recognized as the friend of the people in that progressive community and during a recent campaign was elected a member of the school board—the first woman to hold an elective office in the history of the town of Punxsutawney.

BOOK REVIEWS

WRITTEN THOUGHTS: WAPA 1, CAMPFIRE GIRLS AND THE NEW RELATION OF WOMEN TO THE WORLD; WAPA 2, THE DESIRES OF AMERICAN GIRLS

By Luther H. Gulick. Published by the Camp Fire Girls. Price, ten cents each

These two pamphlets, the first containing Dr. Gulick's address before the National Educational Association in July, 1912, and before the Connecticut Valley Public Recreation Conference at Springfield, Mass., in April, 1912, give the fundamental philosophy of the Camp Fire Girl Movement. Dr. Gulick traces the change in the relation between work and education as leaving the home steadily, one after another of the occupations, trades, industries and arts have been taken hold of by the community. "The result has been fundamentally to alter the adjustment of women to the world. . . . Man has made of his new world a wonderful, a magic place in which to work. . . . He has not made of it, however, a good nor a beautiful place in which to live. . . . Woman's work has largely been taken into the community and out of the individual home.

BOOK REVIEWS

Woman is, therefore, following her work into the community. . . . As woman's deepest service in the home is social, so her deepest responsibility is for the relations between people in the community." To meet the new and larger responsibilities it is necessary that she shall continue to learn team work, restore the consciousness of dignity, romance, and beauty to daily work and somehow help to bring it about that adventure, romance and happiness shall be found in the human relationships of life and work, "rather than in its sloughs and deserts."

The second address deals with education and the Camp Fire Girls. "It is accepted as sound pedagogical doctrine that it is part of a boy's training for manhood to engage in some form or other of those activities that have developed manly qualities in mankind." The fundamental activities of woman have been those that center about the home. Yet domestic science and domestic art taught in schools and colleges have not "made them fundamentally loving in their attitude toward domestic activities. . . . Learning about work in no way takes the place of doing work."

Then some way of measuring woman's work, both in order to give it dignity and to help her to keep step must be found. And "somehow a way must be found to awaken an appreciation of the adventurous that is going on all around, to bring back color and romance into the world." The Camp Fire Girls attempt to do all these things in a measure. Their activities are planned to cover all the phases of woman's work.

The American girl desires money—especially money that she has earned and which she can do just as she pleases with. She desires "something to do in which she can use her own abilities." She desires deep and lasting friendships and comradeships. She desires a home. She desires fun and adventure. The problem of this generation is to help to satisfy these desires, for "the greatest thing that is happening to Society today is the coming into it of women."

THROUGH THE GREEN DOOR

AN AERY OF CHILDREN

By WALTER WOOD

Playground workers who have spent many an hour constructing plays and pageants introducing numbers of children and using the well-loved characters of Fairyland and Storyland will find in this little book a dream come true. Children dropping off to sleep are led through Fairyland, Storyland, Historyland to the Magic Glass. One especially good thing is the number of dances and games called for—an antidote for the sedentary type of dramatics too often seen on the playground.

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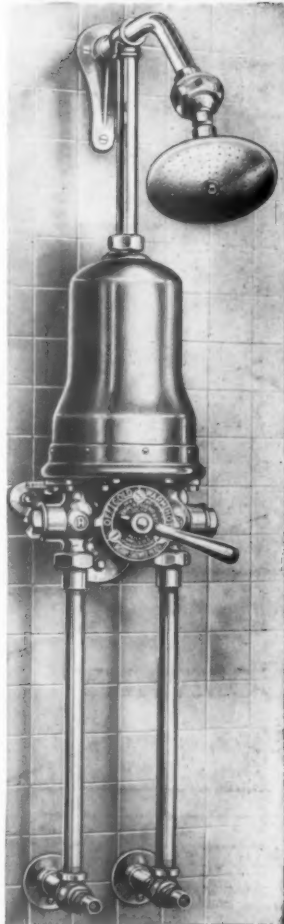
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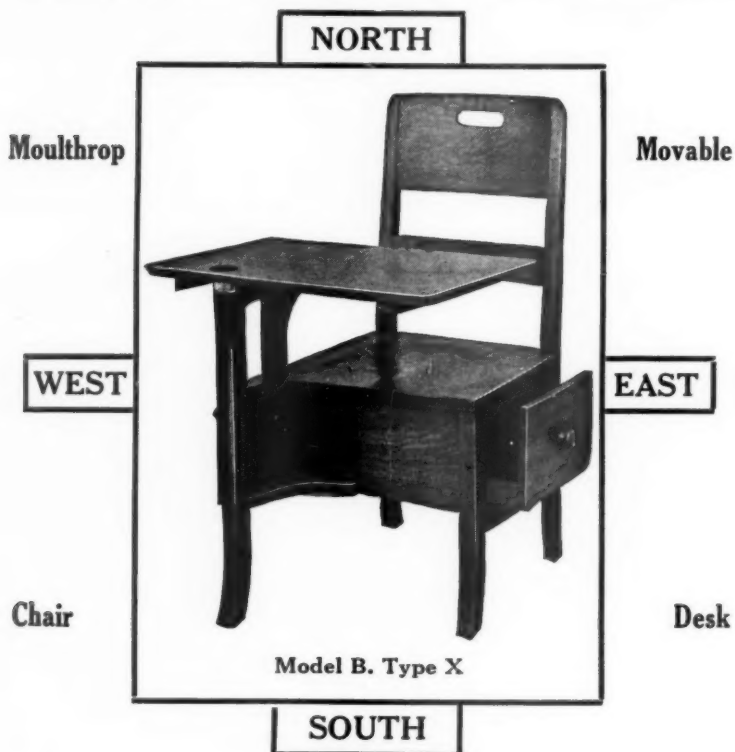
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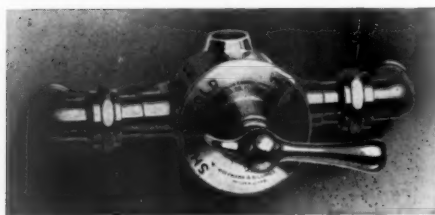
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SHALL AMERICAN CHILDREN PAY FOR THE WAR?

It has been the ideal of America to be the helper of the human race, and now in the most direct way it has the greatest opportunity in its history. Every American ought to feel it not only a duty but a joy to help Europe in this fearful crisis; but a good many people are saying that the demand for help for those who are actually suffering must take precedence of all other needs, and that money must be diverted from educational uses in this country to feed the starving peoples abroad. In other words, American children must pay for the European war.

This is not a European war only. It is a world crisis. America is just as much involved in it in the moral sense, and even in the financial sense, as if an ocean did not divide us from the battlefields; and America must take the discipline of this tragic moral experience. She cannot stand outside and fold her arms; she has no disposition to do so. She must deny herself and take up her cross and bear it cheerfully and gladly for the sake of One who bore his cross for all men, and to whom little children were sacred. Let us all double our gifts. American children must not pay for the European war.

*Extracts from an editorial in
The Outlook, Nov. 11, 1914*

Courtesy of The Outlook